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Maryland National Guard Deploys to Mississippi to Assist Victims of Hurricane Katrina

ANNAPOLIS –Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. today authorized the deployment of 100 military police personnel from the Maryland Army National Guard to assist victims in the State of Mississippi impacted by Hurricane Katrina. The soldiers will be involved in traffic control and security duties as requested by Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour.

“Hurricane Katrina has devastated the lives of thousands of people in Louisiana, Florida, Mississippi and Alabama, and we will do what we can to aid the victims of that catastrophic storm,” said Governor Ehrlich. “This is the time for all Americans to come together to aid their fellow citizens.”

The request was made under the provision of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, an agreement between 49 states and two territories to provide resources to each other when disasters strike. The request from Mississippi was coordinated through the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, a branch of the Maryland Military Department.

The unit that is deploying is part of the 115th Military Police Battalion. The battalion has previously deployed to the Pentagon in the aftermath of the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001. The unit also has seen service in Iraq, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and Afghanistan. They will depart from Warfield Air National Guard Base at the Martin State Airport in Middle River, Maryland on August 31, 2005. The soldiers and their equipment are being transported to Mississippi by C-130J aircraft of the 135th Airlift Group of the Maryland Air National Guard.

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